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SCIENCE:

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF ALL THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

PUBLISHED BY

N. D. C. HODGES,

47 LAFAYETTE PLACE, NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—United States and Canada.....\$3.50 a year.
Great Britain and Europe..... 4.50 a year.

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VOL. XIV. NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 8, 1889. No. 353

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MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
ZOÖLOGISTS AT PARIS, AUG. 5-11, 1889.

THIS was the first general gathering of zoölogists from nearly all the countries of the Old and New World, and was one of the many notable congresses called into being on the occasion of the Universal Exposition of 1889. It should be said that the initiative was taken by the Société Zoologique de France. The sessions were held from the 5th to the 11th of August, under the presidency of Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards. The opening meeting for organization was held on the afternoon of Aug. 5, and was largely attended. Among the more distinguished *savants* present were the venerable De Quatrefages, Retzius of Stockholm, Topinard, Rütimeyer of Basel, Hubrecht of Utrecht, Fritsch of Prague, besides well-known naturalists from Belgium, Moscow, Kiev, Budapesth, Prague, Berlin, London, Geneva, Cairo, Malta, Algeria, southern France, Scotland, Ireland, Cape Town, and the United States. Papers were read by scientists of all nationalities; so that the meeting was truly cosmopolitan in its nature, though, naturally enough, French was the language in which the papers were read. Here it might be observed, that, though many of the papers were presented by foreigners, but few of the speakers used notes or manuscript; and we were, on the whole, struck with the fluency, readiness, and elegance of diction, and the lack of hesitation, clumsiness, and verbosity. The audience consisted mainly of experts; and the papers, with the ensuing discussions—in fact, all the work of the congress was performed, as an American would

say, in a thoroughly business-like manner. The sessions began promptly at 9 o'clock, and adjourned at noon. The afternoons were devoted to visits to the new and commodious museum building in the Jardin des Plantes, the Ecole des Mines, to portions of the exposition of special interest to the members, where, among other attractions, the Prince of Monaco exhibited his dredging and other apparatus for deep-sea research. Private collections were thrown open to individual members; private hospitality shown at the noon hour for breakfast, in France, as well as at dinner-time; while on three of the evenings the members attended the delightful *soirées* at the houses of Professor Milne-Edwards, of Prince Roland Bonaparte, and M. Certes, inspector-general of finances; and on other evenings they mingled with the host of *savants*, teachers, and students at the notable *soirées* given by M. Guyot, the minister of public works, and the colossal reception at the Hotel de Ville given by the municipality of Paris.

To return to more prosaic matters: one of the principal topics discussed in the meetings, and which was especially considered in the opening presidential address, was deep-sea explorations, while most of the papers were of a general nature, giving methods and results. The special topics for discussion, and which were announced beforehand, the reports being in print and distributed at the meetings, were the following: 1. The rules to be adopted for the nomenclature of organized beings; the adoption of an international scientific language (reporter, Dr. R. Blanchard). 2. Determination of the regions of the globe of which the fauna is insufficiently known, and which need exploration; indications of the method of research, of the preparation and preservation of animals (reporter, Dr. P. Fischer). 3. The services rendered by embryology to the classification of animals (reporter, Professor E. Perrier). 4. The relations which exist between the existing and fossil faunæ (reporter, Dr. Filhol).

The discussion on nomenclature was not introduced until the last days of the session. The report of Professor Blanchard was conservative, excellent, and generally accepted by those present, and should be widely disseminated; the law of priority was adopted, beginning with the year 1722, the date of publication of Lang's work; while little approbation was given by the congress to trinomial nomenclature, although the report favored it in special cases.

The idea of such congresses, it seems to us, was a happy conception; and so successful were its results, that, we were told by Professor Milne-Edwards, another will be called in three years. The great value of such international gatherings to a foreigner is the stimulus and pleasure resulting from meeting distinguished workers in other than his own narrow specialty, the friendships formed, the solution of the personal equation so to speak, and the examination of private and public collections and libraries in a metropolis. To an American the occasion was one of great interest and lasting value, and one cannot return to his work without pricking in "some flowers of that he hath learned abroad."

A. S. P.

HEALTH MATTERS.

Electrical Injuries.

AT a meeting of the Practitioners' Society, Oct. 4, 1889, Charles L. Dana, A.M., M.D., of New York, read a paper on the above subject. As he pointed out, with the introduction of new industrial methods we are meeting accidents and injuries of all grades of severity; and in time there will be associated with electrical systems, classes of injuries some of which will be perhaps peculiar to them; some will resemble those known as railway brain and railway spine, traumatic hysteria, and other neuroses or psychoses; while a large number will be only of the ordinary surgical character.

The telegraph and telephone produce peculiar neuroses, due to the demand made upon the nervous system of the operator, the results being telegraphers' cramp, aural and mental disorders of telephone transmitters, etc. Most of the observed cases of this electrical injury come from the apparatus carrying electrical currents for lighting and power.

Such currents have varying effects. In some cases they merely